GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4835
ANSWERED ON:19.04.2001
CENTRAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR DRY LAND
GADDE RAMAMOHAN

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the activities of the Central Research Institute for Dry Land Agriculture- Hyderabad;

(b) the manner in which it is helping farmers of Andhra Pradesh;

(c) the total manpower and yearly expenditure on the Institute;

(d) whether the work load for the staff is adequate; and

(e) if so, its achievements so far?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN)

(a) Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA) was set up under ICAR during 1985 at Hyderabad to take up lead anc strategic research in dryland agriculture at the national level. Main activities of the institute are :

i) Development of strategies for sustainable farming systems in the rainfed areas.
ii) Act as a repository of information and provide leadership to the network research for generating location specific technologies for rainfed areas.
iii) Act as a centre for training on all aspects related to management of rainfed farming systems.
iv) Collaborate with relevant national and international agencies and provide consultancy in the areas of dryland agriculture.

(b)

(i) CRIDA, Hyderabad is the major ICAR institute working for the resource poor rainfed farmers of India, in general, and Andhra Pradesh, in particular. One centre of the institute is working at Anatapur which also has an Operational Research Project.This station is involved in generating appropriate rainfed technologies to stabilize the income of groundnut based production system farmers in red soils region of Rayalseema region.

(ii) The institute has developed appropriate technologies such as screening of crops/varieties for drought tolerance, contingency crop planning, cropping systems, rainfed horticulture and watershed management for red soils of southern Telangana region of A.P.

(iii) Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) established in 1978 at CRIDA is involved in improving the skills of the farmers, farm women and rural youth of Ranga Reddy and adjoining districts. Institute Village Linkage Programme is also being implemented for the last 4 years.

(iv) CRIDA is imparting training for skill upgradation, organizes frontline demonstrations, develops contingency crop planning and makes weather forecasting for rainfed crops.

(v) Scientists of CRIDA are involved in transfer of rainfed technologies in Andhra Pradesh through participation in the programmes of the state government, dissemination of knowledge and technologies in the local language, organization of Kisan Melas in different districts of A.P. and talks/reports on radio and television.

(c) Manpower

Scientific	68
Administration	57
Technical	99
Supporting grade	77

Total 301

Expenditure (Yearly basis)
Plan 121.00 lakhs
Non-Plan 410.00 lakhs
Non-Plan Schemes 20.7 lakhs
Plan Schemes (AICRPDA, AICRPAM) 1082.80 lakhs
AP Cess Fund Schemes 2.37 lakhs
Funding by other agencies 48.29 lakhs

Total 1685.16 lakhs

(d) Besides, the main activities (mentioned at a), the institute has been entrusted with the responsibility of implementing Rainfed Production System Research and Technology Assessment and Refinement (TAR) under NATP.The institute has more than 100 research projects and 24 IVLP-TAR centres.All the scientists and technical staff have been fully engaged with the responsibilities of research, training, extension, coordination, monitoring and publication activities.

(e) Major achievements of the institute include :

- Delineation of drought-prone areas and predictions on nature and extent of their spread.

- Delineation of the potential areas suitable for mono-cropping, intercropping and double-cropping across the dry farming zones of the country.

- Contingent crop plans and management strategies to deal with the late onset, intermittent breaks and early withdrawal of monsoonal rains.

- Assessment and indentification of an array of crops and their varieties and cropping systems for their stability/drought vulnerability.

- Development of simple crop weather models for pre-harvest forecasting of crop yields, drought monitoring and assessment of yield pattern of the crops in relation to the date of occurrence of sowing rains.

- Validation of various crop growth simulation models and impact of global climate change on crop productivity.

- The most efficient crops and their varieties for different agro-climatic regions have been identified based on a continuous evaluation and screening of released crop genotypes.

- The optimal time of seeding, plant density and crop geometry for different crops and cropping systems have been determined.

- Contrary to the past belief on excessive risks associated with the use of chemical fertilizers, research findings conclusively established that there is vast potential for increasing crop yields through fertilization, typically N fertilizers, across contrasting rainfed environment.

- A number of promising alternate land use systems were identified for different rainfall zones and soil types which included agrisilviculture, agrihorticulture and silvipasture systems and their economics worked out.

- A number of efficient low cost farm implements were designed for various operation, i.e. drill plough, plough planter, Fespo-plough, etc.

- Major constraints in the adoption of dryland agricultural technology were identified and the feedback provided to the researchers through operational research projects.

- The Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) located at CRIDA has organized a total of 800 training programmes both on and off-campus during the period covering 20,000 farmers and farm women.